

R. F. KENNEDY TURNS DOWN HISS CLAIMS

Cites Nixon Error In Book, Says FBI Didn't Have Typewriter

By GERALD GRIFFIN

[Washington Bureau of The Sun]

Washington, April 4 — By something of a coincidence, both President Kennedy and his brother, Robert F. Kennedy, Attorney General, now are on record with corrections of statements made by former Vice President Richard Nixon in his book, "Six Crises."

Attorney General Kennedy issued a statement today which was directed at Alger Hiss more than at Nixon but which had the effect of pointing up an error which Nixon already had acknowledged and had blamed on a research assistant.

On March 20, the President, through the White House press office, denied Nixon's ~~assertion~~ that he was ~~informed~~ during the 1960 election campaign of Government plans to support an invasion of Cuba, at a time when he was publicly urging action of that kind.

Typewriter Involved

Today's statement by the Attorney General dealt with Nixon's account of the Hiss case.

The Attorney General said that the Federal Bureau of Investigation never had possession of the old Woodstock typewriter which figured in the trial of Hiss, a former State Department official who was convicted of perjury for denying that he had passed Government documents to a confessed communist courier, Whittaker Chambers.

In his book, Nixon said that FBI agents found the typewriter.

Hiss declared last Sunday that he was misled by Nixon's account and hoped that it would clear him of the perjury charge which sent him to prison.

He stated that his statement that the typewriter was

Statement Quoted

The flurry of claims and statements caused the Justice Department to issue this statement by the Attorney General:

"The claims made in the past few days by Mr. Hiss and on his behalf regarding certain factual matters in connection with his conviction cannot be substantiated."

"All the pertinent files and records in the case have been reviewed carefully."

"This review confirmed that the FBI never had possession of the disputed typewriter."

"Impartial Manner"

"The FBI investigation and scientific examination of both typed and handwritten documents were conducted in a thorough, impartial manner, and the facts in this regard were considered fully by both the trial and appellate courts."

"Accordingly, no further action in this case is contemplated."

President Kennedy, in taking exception to Nixon's statement about his knowledge of the Cuban invasion plans, was supported by

Allen W. Dulles, former Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, who had been responsible for the intelligence briefings given Kennedy during the election campaign.

Attorney General Kennedy's statement, it was noted, went beyond the point at issue in Nixon's book. Both Hiss and Fred J. Cook, a New York writer, expressed doubts about the Woodstock typewriter in separate books which were published in 1957 and 1958.

The typewriter put in evidence in the Hiss trial was found by Hiss's defense counsel. But Hiss contended that this typewriter was a fake rather than the original and had been "planted" by someone to support the case against him.

Hence the typewriter was an important item in the trial, and the question of whether the FBI ever had possession of it has been given added importance by Hiss in his repeated claims, since his release from prison, that he should have been acquitted.

During the trial it was charged that Hiss's wife had used the typewriter to copy Government documents brought from the State Department.